on household goods made of stainless steel, aluminium, cutlery and glass-tableware. Subject to certain conditions, plastic products are exempt from excise duty upto Rs. 50 lakhs in a financial year, if produced by SSI Units.

(b) Plastic wares are consumed by a wider cross-section of the society and this is not confined to a particular section.

(c) Representations have been received from the certain associations seeking, *inter alia,* to restore the pre-budget exemption scheme to articles of plastic.

The rate of excise duty on plastic materials was reduced from 24% to 16% in the Budget for 2000-2001. The rate of excise duty on articles of plastics was also reduced from 24% to 16%. At present there is no proposal to modify the structure of duty on household articles of plastics.

Amendment to the Banking Secrecy Act

4664. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to amend the Banking Secrecy Act; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be amended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) There is no proposal to amend the provisions in various banking laws, relating to confidentiality in respect of bank accounts.

(b) Does not arise.

Loans disbursed in Meghalaya

4665. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the details of the loans disbursed by all the banks for agriculture purposes to the farmers, small-scale industries and artisans in Meghalaya during each of the last three years and till-date, bank-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): The bank-wise and year-wise details of the loans disbursed by all the banks in the State of Meghalaya for agricultural purposes to the farmers, small-scale industries and artisans during the last three years, as reported by Reserve Bank of India, are given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 117]

Fund from ADB and International Financial Institutions for Maharashtra

4666. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of loans sanctioned by Asian Development Bank and other International Financial Institutions during 1999-2000 for projects in various sectors, sector-wise and actual utilisation thereof State-wise in general and Maharashtra in particular;

(b) the details of funds unutilised as on 31st March, 2000, sector-wise;

(c) the details of action taken/proposed to be taken for optimum utilisation of funds sanctioned by these institutions; and

(d) the details of funds likely to be available from ADB and other International Financial Institutions during the current year to Maharashtra, sector-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Details are given in Annexure [*See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 118] No loan was sanctioned in which Maharashtra is a sole beneficiary. However, like other States, Maharashtra is beneficiary under Multi-state and Central projects, too;

(b) Funds are utilized for the period of project cycle. Details of funds which are unutilized as on 31.3.2000 are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(c) Some of the steps taken by the Government to improve aid utilization are ensuring adequate provisioning for externally aided projects, streamlining of procurement procedures, disintermediation on flow of external aid to Central Public Sector Undertakings, quarterly review with Executing Agencies, setting up of a Project